

what's in *focus*

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Governor Announces Awards of Nearly \$1.4 Million for South Jersey Watershed Projects

On January 5, 2000, Governor Christine Whitman presented a check for \$700,000 to the Burlington County Soil Conservation District for two sites in the Rancocas Watershed Area. The Smithville Restoration Project will receive \$450,000 of the money for an erosion control project at Smithville Farm that will improve stream banks, stormwater control and habitat. There are severely eroded gullies adjacent to the farm where sediment runs into the North Branch of the Rancocas Creek. Best management practices will be designed and implemented to reduce runoff and demonstrate farm conservation measures as a model for farmers in the region. The three-year project will extend the riparian greenway and expand outreach through the creation of a regional environmental education center. Of the \$450,000, \$300,000 is being funded through the state's corporate business tax and the remaining \$150,000 through federal nonpoint source pollution funds.

"These grants will significantly improve water quality," Whitman said.

"Involving people in projects that improve the health of the watersheds in which they live is the key to keeping New Jersey a great place to live, work and raise a family."

(Awards continued on page 2)



Streambank stabilization will improve the severely eroded gullies adjacent to the Rancocas Creek.


watershed*focus*

is a publication concentrating on watershed management, stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management issues in New Jersey. Send comments and subscription requests to:

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Try it out!
New Jersey now has a
"watershed hotline!"

**1-877-WTRSHED
(987-7433)**

The watershed hotline is a taped message housed by the NJDEP, Division of Watershed Management, which gives general information about watersheds. It also connects callers to the WPNJ regional representatives for more specific information about their watershed.

Awards

(continued from page 1)

Other partners in the project are: the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Service, the Burlington County freeholders, the Rancocas Conservancy, the Mount Holly Municipal Utility Authority, the Delaware Estuary Program and the NJ Environmental Federation.

The other \$250,000 will be used for the second phase of a planting restoration project at Mill Dam/Iron Works Park in Mt. Holly. This grant will fund the continuation of a forest buffer. Earlier this year, volunteers planted trees along the riverbank here through a similar grant.

In addition to the \$700,000 presented to the Burlington County Soil Conservation District, the

Salem County Department of Planning will receive \$101,000 for the Salem GreenKeepers Plan to reduce nonpoint source pollution in the Salem River Watershed. The Gloucester County Parks and Recreation Department and the Federation of

Gloucester County Watershed Associations will receive \$19,000 to develop and implement a "Backyard Best Management Practices and Wildlife Habitats Project" in the Maurice River Watershed.

The Ocean County Soil Conservation District was awarded a \$60,000 grant to develop a teachers activity guide for the Barnegat Bay Watershed.

An additional \$517,725 in corporate business tax funds are being distributed for watershed management purposes including \$17,725 that has been allocated for the continuation of a characterization report of the Barnegat Bay and \$500,000 for studies in the Rancocas to measure the amount and sources of nutrients, such as phosphorus, entering the creek and to develop controls to improve water quality.

The watershed management program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection Division of Watershed Management, is partly funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Clean Water Act grants for nonpoint source pollution. These grants fund restoration projects that measurably improve water quality in priority watersheds. Nonpoint source pollution occurs from runoff from roads, development and agriculture.

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that improve the health of the
watersheds in which they live
is the key to keeping New
Jersey a great place to live,
work and raise a family."**

Governor Furthers Commitment to Improving Water Quality and Smart Growth

In January, Governor Christie Whitman signed Executive Order 109 that will require comprehensive environmental assessments before the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) approves new or amended Wastewater Management Plans submitted by a governmental agency or private entity. The water-quality executive order was unveiled by Gov. Whitman during her State of the State Address in support of her vision for protecting New Jersey's environment.

"Clean and plentiful water is essential to the ecological, economic and social well-being of everyone who lives and works in New Jersey," said Gov. Whitman. "The importance of our water resources - both to

residents and the numerous species of fish and wildlife that live here, could never be overestimated - and it's up to us to preserve these vital interests for now and forever."

"That's why I've signed this Executive Order to protect both surface and groundwater supplies through smart growth - by assuring that new development will only be approved where the natural resources can support it," said Gov. Whitman. "I believe such a

comprehensive environmental assessment will improve coordination and compatibility among infrastructure approvals, watershed management, open space protection and municipal planning efforts."

Executive Order 109 directs DEP, through existing authority, to require applicants for new or amended Wastewater Management Plans to examine wastewater alternatives before making any major changes to a sewer service area, the capacity of its facility or areas served by septic systems. It applies to pending and new applications that directly affect 100 or more acres of land or the disposition of 20,000 gallons of water or more per day. For applications submitted before this Executive Order (and for which a notice of public comment has been published), DEP will require the assessments only where there are significant water resource issues. Additionally, DEP has a 120-day turnaround on these documents.

Smart Growth - assuring that new development will only be approved where the natural resources can support it.

Planning for Clean Water: Municipal Guide Available

Municipalities hold the key to improving water quality within their boundaries. Through the municipal planning process, local governments have a great impact on the waterways within their boundaries and beyond. How can municipalities incorporate water quality concerns into their local master plans, zoning ordinances and site plan review processes? Find out how by ordering *Planning for Clean Water: The Municipal Guide*.

The guide is intended as a simple straightforward tool for municipal officials in New Jersey. It will be particularly useful for planning board and environmental commission members, showing how water quality concerns can be voluntarily incorporated into the master plan, zoning ordinance and site plan review process. Rather than providing best management practices for every situation, the guide provides concepts and examples of tools that may be used, and direction to the user on where to get further help and information.

The challenge is to ensure that community goals and objectives are met while at the same time recognizing regional or watershed water quality needs. This can be accomplished by taking an active planning approach. After all, it's better to plan for water quality before development than to try to fix things later.

To order your copy of *Planning for Clean Water: The Municipal Guide*, please contact the NJDEP Division of Watershed Management at (609) 292-2113.

May Workshop Focuses On New NPS Manual for the Whippany River

A Cleaner Whippany River Watershed, the new nonpoint source guidance manual, was prepared as part of the Whippany River Watershed Management Process. With implications for both the northeast watersheds and statewide, the manual and the workshop are for engineers, landscape architects, planners, public works managers and public officials responsible for land use who work with developers and government agencies to design and construct development, redevelopment and public works projects. The two day workshop will show professionals and public officials how to select, design and implement Best Management Practices that will prepare municipalities for new state storm water permits, meet clients' design criteria and reduce nonpoint source pollution.

Speakers at the workshop include:

Randall Arendt,

President of Greener Prospect:
Conservation Planning and Design,

Thomas Cahill,

President of Cahill Associates

Sandra Cohen,

Chief of NJDEP Division of Watershed
Management Northeast Bureau

Fred Kelly,

Soil and Resource Conservationist from
the US Natural Resource
Conservation Service

Leslie Sauer,

Landscape Architect from
Andropogon Associates

Joe Skupien,

Principal Hydraulic Engineer from
Somerset County

George Van Orden,

Health Officer from Hanover Township

The workshop will be held on May 11 and 12 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township, Morris County. The fee for the workshop is \$35 for one day and \$50 for both days. Please contact Mary Arnold, Urban Conservation Action Partnership, at (973) 538-1552 x6 for additional information.

No-Discharge Area Designation for Barnegat Bay Nearing Completion

The towns of Bay Head, Brick Township, Mantoloking and Point Pleasant Beach have initiated an effort to designate Barnegat Bay a No-Discharge Area. This includes Barnegat Bay from Point Pleasant and Bay Head, including the entire Metedeconk River, in the North to the Route 72 Causeway between Stafford and Ship Bottom in the South.

Existing conditions make Barnegat Bay a suitable candidate for a No-Discharge Area designation under the provisions of the Clean Water Act. This designation would prohibit boats from discharging treated and untreated sewage into Barnegat Bay. A prerequisite for achieving this status is adequate capacity and convenient access to shore side pump-out and other disposal facilities. In addition to pump-out facilities at various marinas, Barnegat Bay is home to the state's only pump-out boat.

Human waste discharged from watercraft contributes to water quality degradation and can lead to closure of shellfish beds and swimming areas and general impairment of the Bay's recreational resources.

As Barnegat Bay is relatively shallow with few inlets and long residence time, Bay waters consequently have a slow flushing rate. Demographic features and heavy use of the Bay have positioned this area to be a prime candidate for a No-Discharge Area designation.

In addition to the mayors of the 4 towns involved, Assemblymen David Wolfe, Jim Holzapfel and Senator Andrew Ciesla have also added their support for the No-Discharge application. NJ Marine Consortium in Sandy Hook will be assisting the Barnegat Bay Estuary Program in applying for the No-Discharge Area status by completing a Draft Application for the Bay region between the Manasquan Canal and Little Egg Harbor.

Three other rivers in New Jersey are currently designated as No-Discharge Areas. All located in Monmouth County, they are the Navesink, Shark and Manasquan Rivers. An application for the Shrewsbury River has also been filed with EPA by the Monmouth County Environmental Council.

For more information about the Barnegat Bay No-Discharge Area Application, please contact Heidi D'Ascoli at (732) 506-5313 or Bob Scro at (732) 286-7877.

LOW INPUT LANDSCAPING STRATEGIES

5 BASIC PRINCIPLES

Low input landscaping uses five basic principles to be successful.

With spring just around the corner, you may be considering lawn and landscaping projects. How you care for your lawn and garden has an impact on your watershed. Your lawn or garden may only be a small patch of greenery but all the lawns and gardens across the state have a major impact on New Jersey's waterways and ground water. Fertilizers and pesticides used on home lawns and gardens can be a significant source of water pollution. Taking care of your local watershed starts in your own backyard. Low input landscapes save time, energy and money by reducing the amount of work and resources used in the landscape. Consider applying these principles at home or at your business.

Low input landscaping means less water, fertilizers and pesticides and less work for the homeowner. Low input landscaping works with the environment, by choosing plants suited to the local conditions. These landscapes reduce polluted runoff by reducing fertilizer, pesticide and water use.

Properly landscaping your yard reduces the erosive force of rainwater runoff and increases the value of your home. By planting trees, shrubs and ground cover, you encourage excess rainwater to filter slowly into the soil instead of flowing directly into storm drains or nearby streams. Choosing trees and other plants that are appropriate for your soil and growing conditions will ensure that you will have a beautiful yard.



Know your soil, know your site, know your plants.

In order to be successful, you need to conduct a soil test and get to know your site. Is it well drained? Does it puddle after it rains? How much sun or shade through out the day? Is it windy? Once you know the answers to these questions, you can choose plants that can handle those conditions and thrive.



Save water.

By choosing the right plants, you can reduce your water use. Mulching helps conserve water too. This will not only save you money in your water bill but also saves a vital resource.



Do the minimum.

Low input landscaping means less work for you and more time to do something else. A little planning up front saves you time and money later. It's one way to get more use out of that lounge chair.



Think long term.

While low input landscaping may require a little more initial planning and effort, in the long run it saves time and money by being less work later. You can spend a lazy afternoon in the hammock rather than spraying pesticides on diseased plants or watering plants that are not drought tolerant.



Go native.

Native plants are an excellent choice. They are adapted to local conditions and require minimal maintenance.



PLANNING YOUR LANDSCAPE

By using these five basic principles and integrating them into your landscape design and maintenance, you can make a difference in preventing pollution while improving your home and community. And a little work up front pays off in the long run with less maintenance and a healthy attractive landscape. It is something your whole family can enjoy.

Adding low input landscaping to your existing landscape is simple. You can start by replacing a shrub that has performed poorly, using native perennials instead of annuals or replacing a section of lawn with groundcovers. Renovating an entire section can provide an opportunity to add new textures and colors while dramatically improving your landscape.

When planning your new landscape, follow these steps:

1. Analyze the site.

Get to know your site. Is it sunny, partly sunny or shady? Is the soil wet, dry or somewhere in between? Is it exposed to wind or salty spray from a bay or ocean? Have your soil analyzed to determine what nutrients are in the soil and what its pH is.

2. Decide how you will use your landscape.

Determine how lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covers can be organized to meet your needs. Do you want a play area for children, screening for privacy or flowers for cutting? Do you want a shady nook for the hammock or to create a butterfly garden?

3. Select plants that meet your needs and enhance the natural environment.

You can choose plants that require less fertilizers, pesticides and water. Maintaining your low input landscape will cost you less time and money. Consider native species.

Trees are tremendous.

Trees have long been appreciated for their beauty, but their help in minimizing erosion is not as well known. Realtors suggest that mature trees increase the value of homes as well as the speed of sale. Well-planned landscaping can reduce heating and cooling costs for your house by as much as 30 percent. Trees, shrubs and ground cover also require less maintenance than grass. Because trees and shrubs require less fertilizer and fewer herbicides than grass, the chances of polluting streams is minimized.

Landscaping for Wildlife

Another possibility is landscaping for wildlife. By selecting appropriate plants, landscaping can reduce water pollution and serve wildlife too. Four basic elements will need to be provided for wildlife: food, water, shelter and space. The specifics depend on whether or not you are trying to attract a variety of wildlife or certain group, such as butterflies or hummingbirds.

MAINTAINING YOUR LOW INPUT LANDSCAPE

PART 1

Once your landscape is established you will reap the benefits of good landscape planning. Maintenance should require minimal fertilization, pesticide use or watering. Here are some guidelines to follow:

Conserve Water

Water lawns and other plants only when they need it. Don't set the sprinkler to go on automatically. How many times has your neighbor's sprinkler been on when it's raining? Watering can be minimized if you have chosen drought tolerant plants and use organic mulches which help retain water.

Fertilizers

Fertilizers contain nutrients for plants. Nutrients are necessary for plant health and growth. Test your soil regularly to find out if any nutrients are needed. Read and follow label instructions. Twice as much is not twice as good. Plants must be able to absorb the nutrients or they will simply wash away, wasting your time and money.



DETAILS

A number of excellent resources are available that can provide you with details of which plants work in a specific area or for a specific type of landscape. Here are some suggested resources:

Publications:

Landscaping for Birds, Landscaping for Birds on Larger Parcels of Land, Landscaping for Birds on New Jersey's Barrier Islands, and Gardening for Butterflies. NJ Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife Endangered and Nongame Species Program, PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ 08625-0400.

Lazy Landscaping: Your Guide to Beautiful Landscaping with Minimum Maintenance. Point Pleasant Environmental Commission 908/892-3434.

The Clean Water Book and Landscaping for Water Conservation. NJDEP Division of Watershed Management 609/292-2113
www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt
Pinescape: Landscaping in New Jersey's Pinelands 609/894-9342

Websites:

National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife habitat at www.nwf.org/habitats
Rutgers Cooperative Extension at www.rce.rutgers.edu/rceinfo

MAINTAINING YOUR LOW INPUT LANDSCAPE

PART 2



Pesticides and Pest Management

To many homeowners, pest control is synonymous with chemical pesticides, and quick eradication is the goal. “Pesticides” is an umbrella term that includes herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and rodenticides. Designed to kill “pests,” this big family of chemicals can also be dangerous to human health and the environment. There is considerable controversy about the potential risks associated with some pesticides. Some studies have linked pesticides to cancer in humans exposed to high concentrations over long periods of time.

In addition to these long-term consequences of pesticide contamination, acute pesticide poisoning can occur. Symptoms include headaches, dizziness, stomach and intestinal upset, numbness of extremities, spasms, convulsions and heart attacks. It is important to be extremely careful in handling pesticides and to use safe alternatives wherever possible.

Consider Using Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a system of reducing pest problems using environmental information along with variable pest control methods. These methods include physical, mechanical, biological, cultural and chemical means of reducing pests. While pesticides can be used in this balanced management strategy, drastically reducing their use is IPM’s primary goal. Sometimes several of these steps are taken at once to reduce pest damage.

Integrated Pest Management is a far better alternative than “seek and destroy” elimination styles. IPM saves money compared to traditional costly pesticides, which need to be applied year after year. But the best reason to institute IPM is that it helps to restore and maintain a healthy environment and protect your health as well.

WHY BOTHER WITH LOW INPUT LANDSCAPING?

1. Do it for yourself because it will save you time and aggravation.
2. Do it for the bottom line because it will save you money.
3. Do it for your children because they will have a cleaner, healthier environment to enjoy.

New NJ Watershed Guide Available for Educators

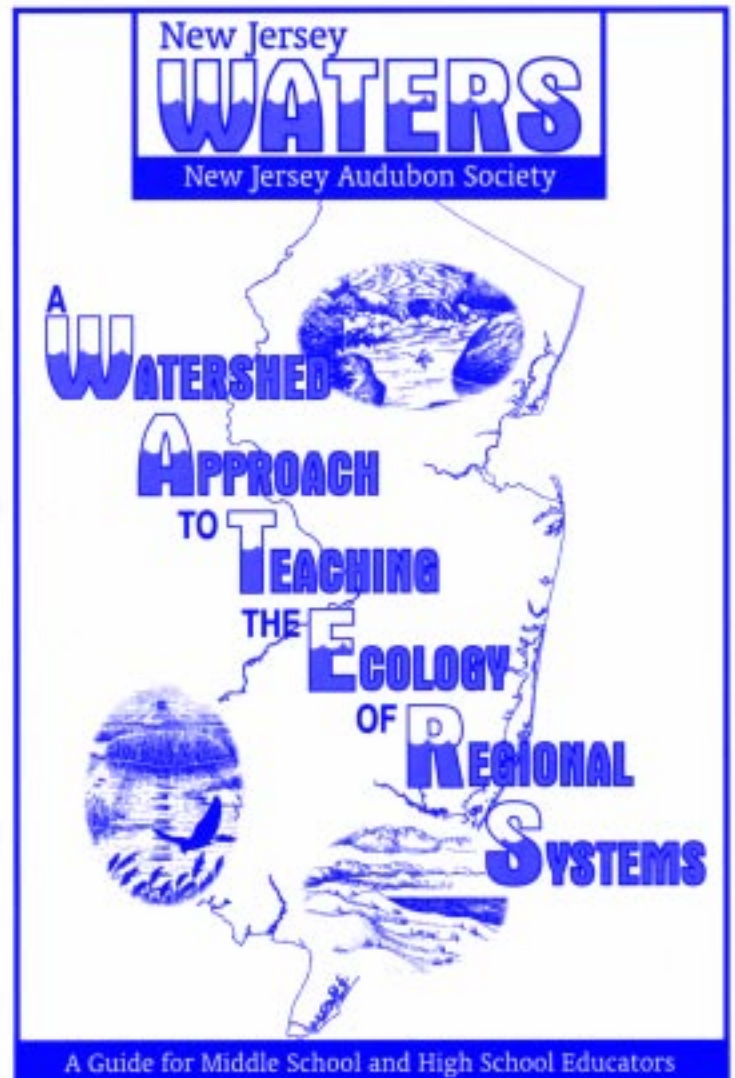
NJ Audubon's Society's is pleased to announce its newest education publication, *New Jersey's WATERS*. Designed for middle and high school educators, the guide features:

- **218 pages - background, lessons, and appendices**
 - **NJ-specific watershed information**
 - **Awareness to action teaching units**
 - **Adaptable to special needs students**
- **Aligned to the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards**
 - **Opportunities for team teaching**

With this publication, educators will be able to guide students in inquiry-based learning where traditional education disciplines are integrated into a comprehensive learning experience.

Six *NJ Waters* workshops have been scheduled this spring in different location through out the state. To register, Contact Dale Rosselet at 609/861-0700 or email at dale@njudubon.org

To order a copy of New Jersey WATERS mail a check or money order along with your name, address, and phone number to NJAS Department of Education, PO Box 693, Bernardsville, NJ 07924. Payable to NJ Audubon Society. The cost for each guide is \$35.30 including shipping and handling. For more information, please call 908-766-5787. Workshops on how to use the guide are also available.



**AN EVOLUTION OF
AMERICA'S LANDSCAPE:
*Learning from our Past,
Planning for our Future***

**An Evening With
Kenneth Jackson, Ph.D.**

Monday, April 10, 2000
7:30 p.m.

Morristown County
Administration & Records
Building, Morristown, NJ

The Watershed Management Area 6 Public Advisory Committee invites you to hear Dr. Kenneth Jackson, a nationally recognized historian and lecturer. He will share his experiences and research findings about the evolution of America's landscape and the various perspectives of land use regulation and development.

His lecture will draw from his love of history and his firsthand experience with America's urban landscape. As a professor, he has led all-night bicycle rides, walking tours and bus trips that focused on the reality of the urban community.

Dr. Jackson has been a professor of History and Social Sciences at Columbia University since 1976. He has been a Fulbright lecturer in Germany and Australia and a visiting professor at Dartmouth College, Princeton University, UCLA and George Washington University. As a writer and editor, he is well known for *the Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* and *the Encyclopedia of New York City*.

For directions or details, please call Janice Hunts at (973) 263-1138 or Ella Fillippone at (908) 766-7550.

A Peaceful Paradox: The Passaic River

The Passaic River was once known by the Lenape Indians as the "peaceful river valley". Today it is often referred to as the forgotten river. On **Thursday, April 6th from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.** at the **Passaic County Community College, Wanaque Academic Center (in Haskell)**, educators are invited to explore the natural, historical and cultural aspects of one of New Jersey's most intriguing rivers, the mighty Passaic River.

From the New Jersey Highlands to its outlet in Newark Bay, the Passaic River made a mark in the making of the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area. This workshop will highlight the Passaic's place in our community and provide some clear, simple and exciting answers to questions about this forgotten treasurer.

Participants will have an opportunity to attend two workshops of your choice. Each workshop session will provide hands-on lessons and historical information about the Passaic River Watershed that can easily be applied to the classroom. The workshops focus on topics of importance such as the geography and topography of the Watershed, the quality of the Passaic River and its tributaries and a historical perspective of the River in the last century.

The workshop registration is only \$10 and includes a tote bag, hot dinner and snacks. To request a brochure, please call (732) 932-9271 or fax a note to (732) 932-8726. To register directly, please mail \$10 (check payable to Rutgers University) to Rutgers University, Continuing and Professional Education, 102 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (course #EW03C10300).

SPRING FIELD TRIPS FOR EDUCATORS

This spring there will be two afterschool or weekend field trips to explore the Passaic. Registration is open to all educators in the Passaic River Watershed (Morris, Essex, Passaic and Bergen County). Registration is limited. The cost is only \$10 per trip.

**Saturday, April 8 and
Sunday, May 7 - 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Paddle the Great Swamp on the Upper Passaic in a Canoe

Spring field trips are also being offered in conjunction with the workshop above. If you have any questions about the workshop or field trips, please call Colleen Gould at (609) 633-3855 or email cgould@dep.state.nj.us with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Watershed Management.

Get to Know Your Watershed with RATS and BATS

Are you concerned about the stream that flows near your home? Has the local river changed over the past few years? Do you want to learn more about how to monitor waterways and assess their health? Through a series of spring workshops you can learn more about your waterway, its watershed and different watershed monitoring techniques.



In March and April, River Assessment Teams (RATS) workshops will focus on streamwalking and using the Global Positioning System (GPS). Participants will learn how to visually assess the health of their streams and use GPS equipment at these hands-on workshops. Participants are invited to become part of the NJ Division of Watershed Management RATS program, providing information to the Division as part of the watershed management process. The two Saturday workshops will be held at different locations, the first on March 25th in Mount Holly (Burlington County) and the second on April 15th at the Merrill Creek Reservoir (Warren County).

In May and June, Biological Assessment Teams (BATS) workshops will be held in northern and southern New Jersey. These Saturday workshops will focus on macroinvertebrate

biomonitoring techniques and will be led by the nationally recognized Izaak Walton League's Save Our Streams trainers. Macroinvertebrates are small insect-like animals that are visible to the naked eye. Their numbers and diversity are used as an indicator of water quality. After a morning introduction to watershed management and biomonitoring techniques, participants get in the stream and use their newly learned techniques.



The southern workshop will be held in the Lower Delaware Region on May 13th at the Scotland Run Nature Center in Gloucester County.

The northern workshop will be held on June 17th at the Merrill Creek Reservoir in Warren County.

The cost for each workshop is \$25. For more information on the workshops or to register, please contact the Rutgers Office of Continuing Professional Education at 732/932-9271. For additional information on the RATS and BATS programs, please contact Fran Varacalli at (609) 633-0533 or Kyra Hoffmann at (609) 984-5863.

Learning how to assess rivers visually was the focus of last fall's RATS workshop.





The NJDEP Division of
Watershed Management is
now on the web.

Come visit us at:

[www.state.nj.us/
dep/watershedmgt](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt)

Get to Know Your Lake or Pond Volunteer Monitoring of Lakes and Ponds

Saturday, May 6, 2000

in New Brunswick, NJ

Cost is \$25

Are you involved in managing a lake or pond? Do you have a lake or pond on your property? Lakes and ponds are dynamic resources that can change dramatically over time due to vegetative growth, accumulating sediments and runoff. The best way to ensure that they are "healthy" is to monitor them regularly.

Come to this program to learn about the ecology of lakes and ponds. Our experienced instructors will show you what makes lakes and ponds "work," how to set up your goals and how to sample your resource. The class will gain experience in the field using common monitoring techniques, so be prepared to get involved!

For more information or to register, please contact the Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at (732) 932-9271. Also, see page 11 for additional Volunteer Monitoring Workshops.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Watershed Management
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